

Mr. Long was now emboldened, "*since proof is at hand*," to relate his observation, made so many years before, of how he saw a woodcock put its broken leg in splints.

These are only samples of the deplorable kind of 'natural history' writing that is now so rapidly coming into vogue, of which Mr. Walton's 'A Hermit's Wild Friends' and so much of Mr. Long's writings form striking examples. An active imagination, a slight knowledge of the subject considered, a clever knack at writing, a few pictures, make up the necessary capital for any amount of natural history romancing, and from the infliction of which upon the public publishers and editors seem to interpose no relief, either through ignorance or the consideration that such yarns meet with ready sale.—J. A. A.

Fisher's 'Birds of Laysan.'—In a paper of some forty pages, illustrated with ten plates, Mr. Walter K. Fisher has given a very interesting account of his ornithological work in the Laysan and Leeward Islands of the Hawaiian Group,¹ which he visited in the summer of 1902, on the expedition of the 'Albatross' to Hawaiian waters for the purpose of deep-sea explorations. Although the cruise lasted from March to August, there seems to have been very little opportunity for on-shore work. The 'Albatross' reached Laysan on May 16 and remained there till the 23d, during which period Mr. Fisher, with Mr. J. O. Snyder, was detailed "to make observations on the bird life of the island and collect such specimens as seemed desirable." Later brief stops were made at French Frigate Shoals, Necker and Bird Islands, but a landing was made only at Necker. In 'The Auk' for October, 1903 (pp. 384-397), Mr. Fisher gave an illustrated account of the forms of bird life peculiar to Laysan, and has contributed to the present number of this journal (pp. 8-20) a paper on the Laysan Albatross.

In the present official report some ten pages are devoted to the itinerary of the trip, including a general account, with illustrations, of the islands visited, and the more striking features of their bird life; this is followed by a systematic list of the 27 species observed, giving detailed accounts of their manner of life on these remote islands. The paper is illustrated with a colored plate of the Necker Island Tern (*Procelsterna saxatilis* Fisher) discovered on this trip, and 52 half-tones made up into nine plates. It is thus an important contribution to the history of island bird life, and especially to that of Laysan and the other islands visited.—J. A. A.

Jones's 'The Birds of Ohio.'²—The first twenty-two pages of this

¹ Birds of Laysan and the Leeward Islands, Hawaiian Group. By Walter K. Fisher. U. S. Fish Commission Bulletin for 1903, pp. 1-39, pll. i-x. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903.

² The Birds of Ohio. A Revised Catalogue. By Lynds Jones, M. Sc., Oberlin College. Ohio State Academy of Science, Special Papers No. 6. 8vo, pp. 141, with map. Oct. 15, 1903.

extensively annotated catalogue of Ohio birds state the scope and purpose of the paper, explain the terms used to indicate relative abundance, give a rather detailed account of the topography and physical conditions of the State, including a consideration of faunal areas, etc., and finally a statement of the author's sources of information, with acknowledgments to contributors for assistance. There is also a bibliography at the close of the list, giving five pages of titles of works and papers relating to the birds of Ohio.

The list includes altogether 338 species, of which 299 are given as found more or less regularly in the State, 15 as merely accidental visitors, and 4 as extinct, making 318 indigenous species as of actual record for the State; there are 2 introduced species, and a hypothetical list of 18 species, the whole number being thus 338, as against 298 given by Dr. Wheaton in 1882.

The annotations give the manner of occurrence of the species as regards season and abundance, and their range within the State; there is also more or less reference to their economic status, there being generally a paragraph under each family heading relating to the food, and often a more detailed statement under many of the species. In addition to the A. O. U. Check-List names are given the synonyms, both technical and vernacular, of the species used in other works, and a reference to Dr. Wheaton's catalogue.

"This catalogue," says the author, "is a revision of Dr. J. M. Wheaton's catalogue issued in 1882 as a part of Volume IV of the Ohio Geological Survey. An attempt has been made to draw comparisons between the conditions prevailing then and now, especially as regards the bird life, and to add such facts as further study and improved methods have brought to light." In the Introduction, the changes in range of certain species within the State are considered, in connection with the probable invasion of the State by several species since Dr. Wheaton wrote. It is needless to say that Professor Jones's 'Catalogue' is a most trustworthy and highly important contribution to Ohio ornithology, being based in part upon special field work he has been able to conduct through a grant by the Ohio State Academy of Sciences from the 'Emerson McMillin Research Fund,' through which also the expense of publication was met. — J. A. A.

Anderson and Grinnell on the Birds of the Siskiyou Mountains, California.¹— This is a record of birds collected or observed by Mr. Anderson in the extreme northwestern part of California between September 6, 1901, and March 10, 1902, with "critical remarks on specimens and distribu-

¹ Birds of Siskiyou Mountains, California: a Problem in Distribution. By Malcolm P. Anderson and Joseph Grinnell. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences of Philadelphia, 1903, pp. 4-15. April 17, 1903.